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HEALTH
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1 ~~D. N. R. B. R. R. R.~~
2/ P. R. O. London Rigan

43 ~~Miss Warren~~
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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

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ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER
OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1959

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BOROUGH OF BASINGSTOKE

HEALTH AND BATHS COMMITTEE, 1959

THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR (COUNCILLOR H. JACKSON, J.P.)

ALDERMAN J. G. WELLING (*Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR MISS N. K. LAWFORD (*Vice-Chairman*).

COUNCILLOR C. PAICE.

COUNCILLOR R. H. HOWARD, J.P.

COUNCILLOR E. KNIGHT.

COUNCILLOR R. C. FOULSER.

COUNCILLOR J. B. PEAT.

The Health and Baths Committee is also a Committee, the members of which, plus the two County Councillors for the Borough (Mr. C. H. Gibbons and Mr. L. J. Smart, J.P.) and the five additional members named below, constitute the District Health Sub-Committee of the County Council:

MISS S. KINGDON.

MRS. E. RICHARDSON.

MRS. A. M. WANT.

DR. H. KEITH WILLIAMS, M.C., M.B., B.S.

MRS. E. A. LEE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT STAFF

Medical Officer of Health - P. L. KARNEY, M.B., B.S., D.P.H. (Resigned 31/1/60).

A. E. P. TWORT, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.P., D.P.H.
(Appointed 4/4/60).

Senior Public Health Inspector, Petroleum and Shops Act Inspector } C. H. DAVID, M.A.P.H.I.

Additional Public Health Inspector } T. J. TAYLOR, M.A.P.H.I.

Pupil Public Health Inspector - B. F. MERRICK.

Senior Clerk - P. E. K. HUNT.

Clerk/Typists - MISS M. N. HANKIN (Resigned 6/3/59).

MRS. P. M. L. ARMSTRONG (Appointed 16/3/59).

MRS. M. A. PETTETT (Resigned 12/6/59).

MRS. G. W. WATSON (Appointed 8/6/59).

Rodent Operative - R. RUMBLE.

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT,
MARKET CHAMBERS,
CHURCH STREET,
BASINGSTOKE.

Tel. : Basingstoke 600.

July, 1960.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Basingstoke.**

YOUR WORSHIP, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in presenting the Annual Report for the year ending 31st December, 1959.

The general health of the town throughout the year remained satisfactory. The biennial epidemic of measles, which began in the closing weeks of last year, continued into 1959 as expected and did not abate until past mid-summer. There was a small epidemic of influenza in the first quarter of the year and an outbreak of glandular fever in October and November. There has been an increase in the notifications of tuberculosis this year. Sickness during the summer months kept the doctors in the town surprisingly busy in view of the exceptionally good weather.

This year much interest and discussion has centred on various possibilities regarding the expansion of the town. The present position is that, in addition to natural growth, an agreement with the London County Council has been signed for Basingstoke to accept 12,000 overspill population from London. It is fairly widely known that the London County Council is anxious to build a new town at Hook, six miles to the North East of Basingstoke, to take a population of some 80,000. There is little support within the County for such a project and in order to satisfy the needs of the London County Council, it has been suggested that Hampshire could absorb the equivalent population by "expanding" several existing communities in the County. Basingstoke becomes an obvious choice as one such area owing to its geographical position and excellent communications. The absorption of good agricultural land, however, is a controversial matter.

The rapid growth of a small market town to something approaching the size of a County Borough is akin to a major military operation in its complexity. Should this come about in Basingstoke, it will give the Borough an unprecedented opportunity of becoming a fine modern town. In order to achieve this, however, Basingstoke must think ahead and plan boldly. While respecting the rights of citizens as much as possible, they must not be permitted to obstruct essential progress. It is to be hoped most earnestly that Basingstoke, if given the opportunity, will keep all traffic away from a section of

the shopping area. The main thoroughfare of a town with the constant risk to life and limb, the sickening smell of diesel exhaust and the endless noise, is certainly no place for housewives to go shopping with their young children.

New houses continued to be built in the Borough at a satisfactory rate, although the proportion erected by the Council was less this year than in 1958. The proposed expansion to accommodate population from London will increase the rate of construction to a new high level. However, no more large scale housing projects can be undertaken until the present sewage disposal arrangements have been improved. Installation of treatment plant may take two years, but plans are well advanced.

My thanks are due to the General Practitioners for their help and co-operation, to the many Officials who assisted during the year, and with this Report, and to the Public Health Staff for their support.

A. E. P. TWORT,
Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area in Acres	-	-	-	-	-	5,180
Population—Registrar General's Estimate, Mid-1959	-					23,130
Number of inhabited houses, etc. (according to Rate Books as at 1st April, 1960)	-	-	-	-	-	7,596
Rateable Value (as at 1st April, 1960)	-	-	-	-	-	£389,396
Product of Penny Rate (Estimated 1960/61)	-	-	-	-	-	£1,625

VITAL STATISTICS

				1959	1958	1957
Live Births	-	-	-	463	427	400
Live Birth Rate per 1,000 population	-			20·02	19·58	19·20
Still Births—Legitimate	-	-	-	11	7	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-	—	2	—
Total	-	-	-	11	9	4

Analysis of Causes of Death

<i>Code No.</i>	<i>Disease</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>	<i>1958</i>	<i>1957</i>
1	Tuberculosis—respiratory -	—	1	1	1	2
10	Malignant neoplasm—stomach -	7	2	9	3	3
11	„ „ lung, bronchus -	6	1	7	7	6
12	„ „ breast -	—	5	5	4	4
13	„ „ uterus -	—	2	2	2	1
14	„ „ others and lymphatic -	13	8	21	20	13
15	Leukaemia - - -	1	1	2	1	2
16	Diabetes - - -	—	1	1	—	2
17	Vascular lesions of nervous system -	11	18	29	24	30
18	Coronary disease—Angina -	23	10	33	37	24
19	Hypertension with heart disease -	1	6	7	10	6
20	Other heart diseases - -	15	11	26	28	23
21	Other circulatory disease - -	4	5	9	9	8
22	Influenza - - -	2	2	4	1	6
23	Pneumonia - - -	9	7	16	6	4
24	Bronchitis - - -	5	—	5	6	6
25	Other diseases of respiratory system - - -	3	1	4	1	2
26	Ulcer of stomach and duodenum -	1	2	3	1	1
27	Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea -	—	1	1	1	1
28	Nephritis and nephrosis - -	1	—	1	2	4
29	Hyperplasia of prostate - -	3	—	3	—	3
31	Congenital malformation - -	2	—	2	2	2
32	Other defined and ill-defined diseases - - -	7	7	14	23	12
33	Motor vehicle accidents - -	—	—	—	3	2
34	All other accidents - - -	—	1	1	4	4
35	Suicide - - -	1	1	2	1	3
36	Homicide - - -	1	—	1	1	—

Age Distribution

<i>Group</i>	<i>Male</i>	<i>Female</i>	<i>Total</i>
Under 1 year	5	4	9
1—19	2	—	2
20—44	3	4	7
45—64	28	20	48
65—74	35	20	55
75—90	42	42	84
90+	1	3	4
Totals	116	93	209

Malignant Neoplasms—Deaths associated with :

Classification	No. of Deaths			Average Age at Death		Age Range
	M.	F.	Total	M.	F.	
Lung and Bronchus -	7	1	8	63	59	59—71
Oesophagus -	2	1	3	67	61	22—84
Stomach -	6	2	8			
Larynx and Pharynx -	2	—	2			
Colon and Rectum -	2	2	4	72	76	67—78
Uterus -	—	1	1			
Breast -	—	6	6	—	66	43—89
Ovary -	—	2	2			
Bladder -	1	1	2			
Prostate -	4	—	4			
Pancreas -	1	—	1			
Leukaemias -	1	1	2			
Lympho-sarcoma -	2	—	2			
Melanoma -	1	—	1			
Liver -	—	1	1			
Ventriculi -	1	—	1			

Causes of Death in Infants

Cause	24 hrs.	Within 1 week	1—4 weeks	1—3 months	3—6 months
Congenital Malformation	—	1	—	—	—
Prematurity -	2	—	—	—	—
Atelectasis -	1	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia -	—	—	—	2	—
Inhalation of vomit -	—	—	—	—	1
Meningitis -	—	—	—	—	1

EPIDEMIOLOGY

(1) General Health

(a) Record of new claims to sickness benefit received at Basingstoke National Insurance Office :

	1959	1958	1957
January -	700	681	475*
February -	1218	579	518
March -	969*	538	461
April -	490	480*	371*
May -	289	361	397
June -	371*	398	372
July -	382	364*	342
August -	323	296	304
September -	432*	372*	429
October -	451	459	1421*
November -	534	529	730
December -	503*	468*	582*

* Five-week periods reduced to four weeks for comparison.

(b) Attendance at Schools in the Borough expressed as percentages :

<i>Term</i>		1959	1958	1957
Spring	- -	86·8	89·6	91·8
Summer	- -	92·8	93·1	90·5
Autumn	- -	91·2	92·0	87·3

Considerable absence from work and school in the first quarter of the year was caused by an epidemic of influenza among adults, and measles among the children.

(2) Infectious Diseases

(a) Notifications during the year :

Measles	- - -	299
Whooping Cough	- -	2
Scarlet Fever	- -	7
Puerperal Pyrexia	- -	2
Erysipelas	- -	1
Food Poisoning	- -	1
Tuberculosis—Respiratory	-	21
Tuberculosis—Non-Respiratory	-	2

(b) **Measles** : The epidemic of measles, already mentioned, followed the usual pattern, although somewhat prolonged. Complications were few. The highest incidence was at the primary school age.

The table below shows the distribution of cases by age for each quarter of the year :

<i>Age Group</i>	<i>Quarter</i>			
	<i>Jan.—Mar.</i>	<i>April—June</i>	<i>July—Sept.</i>	<i>Oct.—Dec.</i>
Under 1 -	4	3	1	—
1—2 -	15	8	3	—
2—3 -	14	13	7	—
3—4 -	17	9	4	—
4—5 -	15	17	6	—
5—9 -	44	78	27	1
10—14 -	—	8	—	—
15—24 -	1	3	1	—
Totals -	110	139	49	1

(c) **Poliomyelitis** : There were no cases of poliomyelitis in the Borough this year.

(d) **Tuberculosis** : The following table indicates the incidence of new cases during the year :

Age Period	Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
Under 5	1	—	—	—
5—14	—	—	—	—
15—24	2	8	—	1
25—44	1	3	—	—
45—64	3	1	—	—
65+	2	—	1	—

There has been an increase in the notifications of Pulmonary Tuberculosis this year ; eight cases being in young women between the ages of 15 and 22. It must be emphasised, however, that most of these cases had minimal disease picked up on Mass X-ray. Furthermore, contact tracing did not reveal any particular sources of infection at place of work or elsewhere and the cases appeared to be distributed indiscriminately throughout the Borough. There is no evidence that the immigrant population has any special predilection.

In summary, it may be said that the present Tuberculosis figures, although indicating the necessity for continued watchfulness, need not provoke any undue concern.

(3) Vaccinations and Inoculations

(a) **B.C.G.** : In October and November a start was made towards offering B.C.G. vaccinations to children shortly to leave school. Among 13 and 14 year-olds at Basingstoke County High School and Queen Mary's Grammar School, approximately 80% were found to be susceptible individuals—i.e. Mantoux-negative. (National figure for 1958 was 82·3%). Sixty-three such children in each school received vaccination, but some parents did not wish their children to have this protection.

It is hoped that the scheme will be extended to all schools with children of this age in 1960.

(b) **Smallpox** : Percentage of children under one year vaccinated during the year :

	1959	1958	1957
Basingstoke Borough	73·0	78·7	69·5
Hampshire County	65·6	69·8	70·3

Although the figures for Basingstoke compare favourably with the County as a whole, there still seems to be a certain resistance on the part of parents to having their babies vaccinated against Smallpox. An effort is made to point out to them that nearly all complications of this procedure occur after Primary Vaccination in adults. As many people will have to be vaccinated at some time in their lives, in order to comply with international requirements connected with travel, or possibly following the diagnosis of a case of Smallpox in their area, a mother does not help her child by refusing early vaccination.

(c) **Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Tetanus :** During the year, 452 primary immunisations and 332 secondary courses were completed. 398 of the Primary courses completed were with the Triple Antigen.

Number of children at 31st December, 1959, who had completed a course of immunisation, in relation to the child population.

<i>Date of Injection</i>	<i>Under 1 year</i>	<i>1-4 years</i>	<i>5-9 years</i>	<i>10-14 years</i>	<i>Total</i>
Completed within 1954-59 -	161	1107	1377	166	2811
Completed prior to 1954 -	—	—	421	1595	2016
Approx. Child Population -	450	1500	1980	1650	5580

For the past two to three years, it has been our practice to give combined inoculations against all three of the above diseases. This does not mean an increase in the number of injections received by each child. Protection against Tetanus is efficient and harmless. It is a disease no less serious than Diphtheria and a constant danger in country districts. In order to save the child having unnecessary, and sometimes hazardous, injections of Tetanus Antitoxin in casualty departments of hospitals, it is essential that the mother be given an adequate explanation of what has been done, together with a record card to keep at home. This, of course, applies to all inoculations and vaccinations. Record-keeping in the Country as a whole still leaves much to be desired. It is to be hoped that before long the numerous shapes, sizes and colours of cards used by various authorities will be standardised by the Ministry of Health, along the lines of the armed forces. It would also be most desirable to have all inoculations and vaccinations recorded on a single card for each patient.

(d) **Poliomyelitis :**

<i>Age Group (Year of Birth)</i>	<i>Completed 2 doses only</i>	<i>Completed 3 doses</i>
1959	78	3
1958	304	152
1957	87	281
1956	66	286
1955	48	263
1954	77	254
1953	56	222
1952	68	259
1951	67	216
1950	58	236
1949	58	242
1948	58	236
1947	91	304
1946	83	248
1945	60	180
1944	77	182
1943	73	162
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	1409	3726
1933/42	1047	946
Expectant Mothers	217	324
Totals	2673	4996

The immunisation campaign against this disease is progressing well. By the time this report goes to press, protection will be offered to adults up to the age of 40, and it is hoped that the response will be good. Many young people have been inoculated at their place of work and I should like to express my appreciation of the co-operation we have received from many employers in the district.

SOCIAL CONDITIONS AND GENERAL HEALTH SERVICES

In addition to a steady natural growth, Basingstoke has agreed to absorb 12,000 overspill population from London in the next 10 years. By 1970 the population of the town will be at least 40,000 and, as mentioned elsewhere, may be very much greater than this. The problem of any such rapid expansion is to keep opportunity for employment, housing, shopping facilities and social services in step with the increase in population. This means more industries, new shops and schools and, on the health side, more doctors, midwives, nurses and health visitors. Negotiations are already in hand to obtain a new hospital for the area.

Employment has remained high during 1959. One or two local firms were expanding production and at least two new firms made preliminary arrangements to buy sites and settle in the town. During 1959 there was, on the men's side, a continuous demand

for all types of skilled engineering workers. On the women's side there was a shortage of vacancies, especially of the unskilled factory type. It is interesting to note that nearly two thousand people were found employment by the Local Employment Exchange during 1959, an increase of 387 on the previous year. The number of people using the Employment Exchange is growing each year and this trend is likely to continue with the town's expansion.

The constant demand for houses continued and is likely to be with us for many years. In any further expansion of Basingstoke a reasonable amount of non-council house development should be encouraged, if the town is to retain a balanced population.

It is hoped that construction of a new sewage works, upon which so much else depends, will begin in 1960. Apart from the need for adequate treatment of increasing domestic sewage, industrial expansion is also largely dependent on improved facilities being available for trade effluents.

General Health Services

The District Health Sub-Committee continues to provide a most useful opportunity for discussion of matters which, though the responsibility of the County Council, nevertheless arouse considerable interest locally. Furthermore, intimate knowledge of local conditions is frequently of help in advising the higher authority. The welfare of infants, old people and the mentally and physically handicapped, are cases in point.

I wish to pay tribute to the many voluntary workers who help out at infant welfare and other clinics. Their services are invaluable. On their behalf, I would like to make a plea that welfare food and vitamin supplies be packed in smaller units. Three dozen bottles of orange juice weigh 30 lbs., which is too much for any woman to carry about, particularly as so much has been said recently about the prevention of accidents.

National Dried Milk, Orange Juice and Cod Liver Oil continue to be distributed largely by the W.V.S., at their centre at 46 Church Street, and at Bramblys Grange Welfare Centre.

Maternity, Child Welfare and Health Visiting

Clinics held on Tuesday and Friday each week at Bramblys Grange Health Centre :

<i>Year</i>	<i>Number of Clinics</i>	<i>Number who were under 1 year at first attendance</i>	<i>Total Number attended</i>
1959	153	360	1039
1958	153	372	1120
1957	153	373	1087

Clinics were also held during the year at Worting, Kempshott and South Ham.

The Health Visitors are informed of all notifications of births in the Borough. They visit the home and offer help and advice. With the rising population, their work-load is increasing and they are already understaffed. If the present high standards are to be maintained, further Health Visitors will have to be found.

District Nursing

The following table shows the numbers of cases attended and visits paid by the two nurses, relief nurse, and one midwife during the year 1959, in comparison with the two preceding years :

Year	Midwifery		Nursing					
	Cases	Visits	Cases			Visits		
			Gen.	T.B.	Total	Gen.	T.B.	Total
1959	115	2090	349	9	358	7140	364	7504
1958	82	1517	417	4	421	7804	159	7963
1957	80	1569	437	5	442	8758	127	8885

From these figures it will be seen that there was a large increase in both midwifery cases and visits, the percentage of visits per case remaining the same.

The decline in general cases and visits is no doubt due to the fact that many drugs formerly given by injection are now given orally. The number of visits is higher per case than formerly—14 visits per case in 1954, 15·5 in 1956, 18·6 in 1958 and 20·9 in 1959, which indicates that a larger proportion of nurses' work consists of long term patients requiring general nursing care.

Home Help Service

Total number of applications received and investigated during 1959 : 129 (of this number 37 did not require assistance for various reasons and 6 were advanced bookings at the end of the year).

Applications were referred by :

General Practitioner	-	73	Health Visitor	-	1
Almoner	-	16	Children's Officer		1
Chest Physician	-	2	Other Sources	-	24
District Nurse/Midwife		12			

Total number of cases helped, 170 (163*).

Type of Case				1959	1958	1957
Short Term	Maternity	-	-	23	25	18
	General Sickness	-	-	20	22	38
	Post Hospital	-	-	14	11	6
	Child Care	-	-	3	1	-
	Special	-	-	1	2	-
Long Term	Chronic Sickness	-	-	15	12	9
	Aged Sickness	-	-	30	26	26
	Aged and Infirm	-	-	61	61	63
	Tuberculosis	-	-	3	3	2

Residential Help was provided in one case—Child Care.

Number of cases completed during the year : 80 (83*).

Total number of Home Helps on Register at 31st December: 43

Income—Number of Cases Paying :	Full Cost	-	52
	According to scale		20
	Minimum Charge		98

* The figures in brackets refer to 1958.

Day Nurseries

There are two registered Day Nurseries in the Borough taking a total of 33 children, aged two to five. These nurseries are a most valuable asset when there is sickness in the home or when the mother, for economic reasons, has to go out to work. They are also valuable where there is an only child who otherwise would spend a large part of the day alone. There is perhaps some danger, however, that a few mothers may use such nurseries in order to shed some of their parental responsibility. There is also the inevitable risk of cross-infection occurring among these young children. On the other hand they are probably safer there than running about the streets.

Old People's Welfare

I am grateful to the County Welfare Officer for the following Annual Statistics for the Borough :

(a) *Visits, Applications and Admissions to Welfare (Part III) Accommodation.*

<i>No. of Visits</i>	<i>Applications</i>	<i>Admissions</i>
40 (49*)	9 (9*)	10 (6*) and 4 short-stay holiday admissions

(b) *Senile Aged Persons admitted to Mental Hospitals under Section 20, Lunacy Act, 1890.*

6 (8*)

(c) *Visits to Aged Sick Persons and referred to Bed Service for Chronic Sick Bed.*

6 (6*)

* The figures in brackets refer to 1958.

It is hoped that an Old People's Welfare Centre will be established in the Borough before long, also, perhaps, a centralised scheme for visiting elderly people in their homes, to help with small tasks and

relieve loneliness. This need is not altogether covered by the present Home Help Service. The Chiropody Clinics remain a most valuable asset to old people; 16 sessions were held with an attendance of 154 during the year. It is not felt at present that there is much demand for the establishment of a "Meals-on-Wheels" service.

Occupation Centre, Goat Lane

This Centre continues to do most excellent work under far from ideal conditions. Our thanks and admiration should be extended to all the staff there. A word of praise should also go to the mothers of these children; their patience and cheerfulness is often exemplary. It is most earnestly hoped that the County Council will soon be able to provide larger and more modern premises.

Family Planning Clinic

This clinic continues to be well attended and there is clearly a need for the services given. Nearly 200 new patients are now seen every year at either Bramblys Grange Health Centre or Hackwood Road Hospital. They are introduced by their doctor, a friend, welfare worker or nurse, or by a hospital. Publicity is also given in the local press. There is close liaison with the local branch of the Marriage Guidance Council. Husbands are encouraged to attend with their wives when this is desirable.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

Weather

The weather in the first three months of the year was average. Basingstoke, in common with the rest of the country, enjoyed an exceptionally good summer, followed by a fairly mild autumn.

Rainfall for the year was as follows :

January	3.56"	May	0.95"	September	0.05"
February	0.00"	June	1.45"	October	2.66"
March	3.82"	July	1.30"	November	2.82"
April	2.66"	August	2.49"	December	5.87"
Total 27.63"					

Comparative figures for previous years :

1958	29.42"
1957	26.08"
1956	25.37"
1955	24.43"

I am indebted to the Borough Surveyor for the following information :

Water Supply

During the year 414,430,000 gallons of water were supplied within the Borough, an average of approximately 52 gallons per head per day for all purposes, and 906,000 gallons were supplied to the Mid-Wessex Water Company for the Cliddesden area. Despite the dry summer no additional supply had to be taken from the Mid-Wessex Water Company, as water from the new borehole at West Ham, which came into operation in July, 1959, helped to counteract the increased demand. Consumers were, however, asked to be careful with the use of water during the latter end of the summer when the wells were at their lowest level, but in spite of this it was not necessary, as has been the case in recent years, to place restrictions on the use of water for garden purposes.

In the course of the year approximately 3,500 yards of new mains were laid on private housing estates in the vicinity of the Basingstoke Bypass and on the Council's housing estate at South Ham.

Systematic sampling of the raw water before chlorination was carried out and in most cases reports were satisfactory. Only occasional samples were found to be slightly suspect and further samples taken immediately afterwards were quite satisfactory. This sampling is carried out by the Waterworks Department before the water is chlorinated and fed into the public mains and then further sampling of the treated water supplied to the public is carried out independently by the Public Health Department. The results of the bacteriological tests and of chemical analyses indicated that the sources produce a water which is pure and wholesome and suitable for public supply services.

The chlorinators at West Ham gave trouble in May and had to be replaced. The supplying firm lent the Council portable chlorinators to maintain efficient chlorination until the new chlorinators were delivered.

In 1959 the Mid-Wessex Water Act was passed by Parliament. Under this Act the Basingstoke Water Undertaking will cease to be administered by the Basingstoke Borough Council on 31st March, 1960, and will be transferred to the Mid-Wessex Water Company.

Sewerage and Sewage Disposal

During the year the Council extended sewers in the South Ham area to provide for their new housing development. In addition, a length of pumping main off the Reading Road, which ran parallel to the railway line was re-routed. This became necessary owing to an increasing risk of the sides of the cutting subsiding and taking part of the main with them.

A small pumping station on the Buckskin Farm Estate was taken over by the Council under an agreement with the estate developers.

Owing to the expansion of the town which has taken place over the past few years, and to enable further development to take place in the north of the town, plans have been made for relieving the trunk sewers in Brook Street and providing additional pumping capacity to take the sewage to the farm. Towards the end of the year, planning permission was obtained for the construction of a new pumping station in Victory Square and the laying of a new rising main, and it is hoped that the erection of the Pumping Station will begin in 1960. As a temporary measure to relieve the overloading at the Basing Road Pumping Station the Council's Consultants were asked to investigate the possibility of providing an additional pump at this station. In times of very heavy rainfall, when the sewers became surcharged, premises at the lower part of Brook Street were liable to flooding. This was remedied by the fitting of an anti-flooding valve to the sewer at this point.

The total flow entering the sewers amounted to 311,494,000 gallons and this was pumped to the Corporation Sewage Farm where it was treated by broad irrigation. It has been clear for some time that any further expansion of the town would mean either a larger acreage of sewage farm, where the present system of broad irrigation can be practised, or some form of treatment. The Council has therefore decided to build a sewage works to give partial treatment before disposal by broad irrigation over the same area of land. Outline planning permission was obtained during the year for the use of the land at the present sewage farm for a disposal works.

Public Cleansing

A weekly collection of house and trade refuse was maintained, and saleable materials were salvaged as far as possible, although there is little market for this material at the present time. A large proportion of the refuse was burnt at the destructor works to raise steam for the sewage pumping station. The remainder of the refuse was disposed of by controlled tipping. The cleansing of public highways and footpaths was carried out by means of mechanical sweepers as well as hand sweeping. The emptying of cesspools was continued as a rechargeable service and a flat rate, which does not represent the full cost, is now charged.

Swimming Bath

A new continuous filtration and chlorination plant, with flow equivalent to two complete changes of water in 12 hours, will be in operation by the summer of 1960. Until now, chlorination has been effected by "hand dosing", with complete emptying and

cleaning of the bath every week. In spite of this, with the large number of people using the pool, it was found that purification was unsatisfactory. In addition, repeated emptying and refilling the bath with new water from the main was expensive. It is felt that there may be a demand for a second and larger pool before long.

HOUSING

(a) New Houses

I am indebted to the Borough Architect for the following information :

During the year 1959 the following new dwelling-houses were completed :

						1958
Council Built	{	Traditional Type Houses	-	27	88	
		Traditional Type Flats	-	50	54	
		Traditional Type Bungalows	-	6	9	
					—	
					83	151
Privately Built	-	-	-	-	444	374
Housing Associations	-	-	-	-	Nil	Nil

The reduction in the number of dwellings erected by the Borough this year is the result of the Ministry's decision in the previous year to curtail their allocation, in common with other Authorities. In spite of this, fair progress has been maintained, and in St. Peter's Road, the south side is nearing completion, and the corner shop has been operating for some months.

During the year, five " Economy " houses were completed, and this design forms the basis of the 72 dwellings which are to commence in 1960 near the new Western Way connection with Winchester Road. The scheme in Hackwood Road, for higher income groups is now completed, and of the 51 dwellings, 26 houses and bungalows have been sold, and the remaining flats let.

St. Michael's Road is newly constructed at South Ham, and runs in a southerly direction from the west end of St. Peter's Road, and considerable development is now taking place in this area. A scheme of some importance is that for Aged Persons, who will live in bungalows and flats, quite independently, but under the supervision of a Warden. There will be 10 single-bedroom bungalows and 12 bed-sitting-room flats, a flat for the Warden, and a Community Room, Laundry, and Visitors' Room for the tenants. Upon the adjacent site, work has commenced on a contract which includes three blocks of single persons' bed-sitting-room flats in three storeys, each containing 12 flats. A corner shop, similar to the one in St. Peter's Road, is also to be erected.

(ii) (a) Houses Demolished—In Clearance Areas	-	Nil
Not in Clearance Areas	-	15
(b) Unfit Houses Closed	- - -	9
(c) Unfit Houses made fit and houses in which defects were remedied :		
(i) By informal action	- - -	47
(ii) By formal Notice	- - -	1
(iii) Under Section 24, Housing Act, 1957	-	Nil
(d) Unfit Houses in temporary use under Section 17 (2), Housing Act, 1957	- - -	1
(e) Purchase of houses by agreement	-	Nil

(d) Improvement Grants

During the year Improvement Grants for a further 66 properties were approved by the Council. This compares with 31 in 1958 and 35 in 1957.

With the coming into force of the House Purchase and Housing Act, 1959, local authorities were empowered to assist owners of dwelling-houses lacking the modern amenities e.g. provision of a bath, wash-hand basin, water closet, hot water supply and a food store, by means of the Standard Grant. Previously, assistance towards these amenities was discretionary, but providing the dwelling is capable of being habitable for 15 years and if leasehold, the lease has at least 15 years to run, then the local authority must give the Standard Grant. It is somewhat disappointing that so far as this Borough is concerned very few rented houses are benefiting from the Grants Scheme amenities. The present standard of fitness for dwellings under the Housing Act, 1957, does not include all the amenities previously mentioned, but no doubt at an opportune time the Ministry concerned will give this matter consideration.

(e) Rent Act, 1957

Number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair-	-	5
Number of decisions to issue Certificates	- - -	5
Number of Undertakings given by Landlords under paragraph 5 of the First Schedule	- - -	2
Number of Certificates issued	- - -	2
Number of applications by Landlords for cancellation of Certificates of Disrepair	- - -	3
Number of Certificates cancelled by Local Authority	-	3

(f) Tents, Vans and Sheds

The number of caravans licensed during the year was 16, and in addition, 250 caravans are permitted on 7 sites in the Borough.

	1959	1958	1957	1956
Total caravans	- 266	253	255	234

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE SENIOR PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

(A) INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

1. Milk

The three pasteurising establishments in the Borough are still in operation and continue to be licensed and supervised on behalf of the County Council by this Authority. In addition, fifteen retail distributors of milk are registered by the Council under the Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949-1959. A further innovation of milk distribution in the Borough this year was the installation of two milk vending machines.

The following table shows the designations, numbers and results of milk samples taken during the year :

<i>Types of Milks</i>		<i>Pasteurised</i>	<i>Pasteurised (T.T.)</i>	<i>T.T.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number of Samples	-	13	2	32	47
Phosphatase Test	<div> <div>Satis. -</div> <div>Unsatis. -</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div>-</div>	<div>2</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>15</div> <div>-</div>
Methylene Blue Test	<div> <div>Satis. -</div> <div>Unsatis. -</div> </div>	<div>13</div> <div>-</div>	<div>2</div> <div>-</div>	<div>28</div> <div>3</div>	<div>43</div> <div>3</div>
Test for Myco. T.B.	<div> <div>Satis. -</div> <div>Unsatis. -</div> </div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>18</div> <div>8</div>	<div>18</div> <div>-</div>
Test for Brucella Abortus	<div> <div>Satis. -</div> <div>Unsatis. -</div> </div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>-</div> <div>-</div>	<div>25</div> <div>7</div>	<div>25</div> <div>7</div>

BRUCELLA ABORTUS—The above table shows that of the 32 samples of T.T. Milk submitted for laboratory examination, 7 samples were reported on the Milk Ring Test as containing Brucella infection. The confirmatory Biological Test proved, however, that these samples were in fact free from such infection.

2. Ice Cream

During the year 23 samples of Ice Cream were submitted for analysis, with the following results :

Grade 1	-	-	14	;	Grade 2	-	-	-	5
Grade 3	-	-	Nil	;	Grade 4	-	-	-	4

There is now only one manufacturer of ice cream in the Borough, the bulk of this commodity now being supplied by the large ice cream manufacturing concerns. This ice cream is sold principally in prepacked containers which considerably minimises the risk of contamination.

3. Meat and other Foods

Carcases and Offal inspected and condemned

	<i>Cattle, excluding Cows</i>	<i>Cows</i>	<i>Calves</i>	<i>Sheep and Lambs</i>	<i>Pigs</i>	<i>Horses</i>	<i>Total</i>
Number killed (if known) -	540	13	341	1,744	2,099	—	4,737
Number inspected -	540	13	341	1,744	2,099	—	4,737
All Diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci							
Whole carcases condemned -	1	2	1	4	2	—	10
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	165	—	2	10	32	—	209
Percentage of the num- ber inspected affec- ted with disease other than tuber- culosis and cysticerci	30·74	15·39	·88	·80	1·62	—	4·62
Tuberculosis only							
Whole carcases condemned -	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	2	—	—	—	63	—	65
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis -	·37	—	—	—	3·00	—	1·37
Cysticercosis							
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned -	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration -	2	—	—	—	—	—	2
Generalised and totally condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

404 visits were made to the slaughterhouse during the year and a total of 4,737 carcasses were inspected, this represents a 100% inspection of all animals slaughtered.

The effect of the National Scheme for Eradication of Bovine Tuberculosis is shown once again by the further reduction in the percentage figure in the preceding Table.

It is appropriate perhaps to mention that although the Borough Council ceased control of the Slaughterhouse on March 31st, 1959, the premises still continue to operate privately.

Summary—Food Unfit for Human Consumption

Weight of Meat and Offal condemned—1 ton 11 cwts. 3 qtrs. 1 st. $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.
Weight of "Other Foods" (including canned and packeted foods) condemned—12 cwts. 1 st. 5 lbs.

Legal Proceedings—Food and Drugs Act, 1955

1. A bakery firm was fined £20 plus £2. 2s. 0d. costs for selling a loaf of bread containing a wire staple.
2. A bakery firm was fined £20 plus £2. 4s. 4d. costs for selling a loaf of bread containing a button.
3. A firm of food retailers in the Borough was fined £15 plus £4. 11s. 6d. costs for selling fly-blown bacon.
4. A bakery firm was fined £20 plus £5. 1s. 6d. costs for selling a cake containing a wire nail.
5. The case against a butchery firm for supplying fly-blown meat to a school was dismissed.

Total fines and costs, £88. 19s. 4d.

Food Sampling

During the year a total of 181 samples of various foods were submitted to the Public Health Laboratory at Winchester for bacteriological examination. The samples included parts of organs from locally slaughtered animals, meat products and various canned foods, fruit drinks, cream, etc.

Samples of liquid egg were also submitted, and fortunately found to be of a satisfactory standard. Since compiling this report however, it would appear that there is some cause for concern at the importation of certain of these foods, prepared it is understood, in most insanitary conditions overseas, but entering this country with no protective treatment. With the present organisation available at our seaports by Port Health Authorities, consideration must, in my opinion, be given to this urgent problem and a means devised to control these potential health hazards, by the provision of approved treatment plants at the ports of importation.

Food and Drugs Act, 1955

I am grateful to Mr. J. S. Preston, Chief Sampling Officer for the Hampshire County Council, for the following information relating to Food and Drug Sampling during the year 1958/59 :

“ 1. 128 samples were procured under the Food and Drugs Act, 1955, within the area of the Basingstoke Borough Council.

2. Milk Samples

The total number comprises 100 samples of milk, including 18 of Channel Islands Milk, all of which proved to be satisfactory.

3. Miscellaneous Samples

Of the 28 samples which were taken of various other foods and drugs, only two were the subject of adverse reports, as follows :

(1) Pork Sausages—deficient of meat.

(2) Pork Sausages—deficient of meat and contained excess fat.

The meat content of these two samples were, respectively, 62% and 61%, although the latter included an excessive proportion of fat, namely, 36%.

There is no official standard for these products, although it is usual to find not less than 65% of meat in pork sausages, and this figure was, in fact, recommended by the Food Standards Committee as a basis for a standard. The Committee's Report also advocates that not more than half the meat should consist of fat. These figures are generally acted upon by Public Analysts and the majority of samples are found to conform to them. The discrepancies in the above samples were not regarded as being serious enough to warrant legal proceedings—as would, in certain circumstances, be possible even though no official standard is prescribed—but the persons responsible were acquainted with the position.

4. General

During visits to traders' premises, attention was given to the provisions of the Labelling of Food Order and the Pharmacy & Medicines Act, with regard to the marking of ingredients and other particulars, which are required to be given with certain food and articles recommended as medicines.”

Food Premises

A total of 823 visits were made to various food premises during the year. Following the detailed survey undertaken by the Department in 1958, only 17 infringements of the Food Hygiene Regulations were found and these were of a minor character. Advantage was taken during the visits to comment on personal hygiene to the staff of these premises. The problem of educating people to their responsibilities in this direction is great, one of the chief difficulties

being the continual changing of staff and perhaps more important, the indifference of persons engaged in food handling to implement hygienic habits.

Organised "Clean Food" education is not always successful where people are required to attend courses, especially during their leisure hours. The answer in my opinion is through the powerful medium of television and radio with regular and frequent programming of hygiene propaganda. One might be enthusiastic enough to imagine a success equal to that of commercial advertising.

Summary

Total number of visits to food premises	-	-	823
Number of premises where infringements were found	-	-	17
Number of preliminary notices served for structural defects	-	-	7
Number of verbal notices	-	-	10
Number of defects and other infringements remedied	-	-	22

(B) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA

4. Notices

138 Notices (written and verbal) were served during the year.

5. Complaints

632 Complaints have been received and dealt with.

6. Rodent Control.

231 Complaints were received during the year and in this connection 2,201 visits were made. This figure included visits to dwelling-houses, refuse tip, slaughterhouse and sewage farm, schools, agricultural, industrial and business premises.

Treatment to private dwellings was a free service as in previous years, and business premises requiring treatment were charged at full cost.

The sewer treatments continued to show satisfactory results. Following the 10% test of sewers, only one treatment was considered necessary during the year.

In all, a total of 2,167 poisoned baits were laid, with 113 complete takes and 610 partial takes ; therefore it can be assumed that a considerable number of rats and mice were destroyed.

The Council are members of the North Hants Rodent Control Committee and send representatives of the Health and Baths Committee and Officers of the Public Health Department to the Quarterly Meetings.

7. Factories Acts, 1937 to 1959

Part I

1. INSPECTIONS :

<i>Premises</i>	<i>Number on Register</i>	<i>Number of</i>		
		<i>Inspections</i>	<i>Written Notices</i>	<i>Occupiers prosecuted</i>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities - - -	14	37	4	-
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority - - -	105			
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding Outworkers' premises) - - -	36			
Total - - -	155	37	4	-

2. DEFECTS :

<i>Particulars</i>	<i>Number of cases in which defects were found</i>				<i>Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted.</i>
	<i>Found</i>	<i>Remedied</i>	<i>Referred To H.M. Inspector</i>	<i>By H.M. Inspector</i>	
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) Insufficient -	2	2	-	1	-
(b) Unsuitable or defective -	3	3	-	1	-
Other offences -	1	1	-	-	-
Total -	6	6	-	2	-

Part VIII

Outwork—Wearing apparel (Making, etc.) - - 34

8. Drainage

Smoke tests -	-	-	-	11
Coloured water tests -	-	-	-	14
Systems exposed -	-	-	-	1

9. Infected Rooms and Articles

Rooms disinfected	-	-	-	6
Bedding disinfected	-	-	-	2 lots
Books disinfected	-	-	-	2
Miscellaneous disinfections	-	-	-	2
Bedding destroyed	-	-	-	1 lot

10. Infestation

- (a) Rooms disinfested - - - 20
 Bedding disinfested - - - 7 lots
 Miscellaneous disinfections - - 26
 In addition, a consignment of miscellaneous articles of furniture, etc., was destroyed.
- (b) During the year 182 complaints were received regarding wasps' nests and appropriate action was taken where possible.
- (c) The Department continued to give advice regarding the identification and treatment of various types of insect infestation (as distinct from vermin) and this service has been much appreciated by the general public.

11. Table I

Classified Statement of Premises Inspected :

Inspections under the Housing Act	-	-	-	105
Inspections under the Public Health Act	-	-	-	228
Rent Act	-	-	-	19
Works in progress	-	-	-	14
Re-inspections	-	-	-	215
Visits to slaughterhouse	-	-	-	404
Food Premises	-	-	-	742
In connection with Infectious Diseases	-	-	-	68
Shops Act	-	-	-	34
Pet Animals Act	-	-	-	3
Prevention of Damage by Pests Act	-	-	-	126
Petroleum Act	-	-	-	87
Factories Act	-	-	-	37
Overcrowding	-	-	-	2
Dairies and milk shops	-	-	-	56
Knackers yard	-	-	-	1
Schools (Private and Elementary)	-	-	-	15
Common lodging house	-	-	-	2

Offensive Trades	-	-	-	-	-	12
Tents, vans and sheds	-	-	-	-	-	235
Ice cream premises	-	-	-	-	-	25
Watercourses	-	-	-	-	-	5
Smoke observations	-	-	-	-	-	77
Miscellaneous visits	-	-	-	-	-	680
Interviews	-	-	-	-	-	672
Total						<hr/> 3,864 <hr/>

12. Table II

Defective Conditions Recorded :

Water Supply :

Defective fittings, etc.	-	-	-	-	-	4
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Water Closets :

Defective buildings	-	-	-	-	-	3
Defective flushing cisterns	-	-	-	-	-	3
Defective flush pipes	-	-	-	-	-	1
Defective pans	-	-	-	-	-	6
Insanitary pans	-	-	-	-	-	1
Miscellaneous defects	-	-	-	-	-	5

Drains :

Choked drains	-	-	-	-	-	22
Defective drains	-	-	-	-	-	6
Cesspools cleansed	-	-	-	-	-	2
Gullies repaired and cleansed	-	-	-	-	-	5
Miscellaneous defects	-	-	-	-	-	3

Sinks, Baths, etc. :

Defective, insanitary, or absence of, sinks, baths and lavatory basins	-	-	-	-	-	5
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Dustbins :

Defective	-	-	-	-	-	2
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Dampness :

Defective roofs	-	-	-	-	-	9
Defective gutters and rain-water pipes	-	-	-	-	-	12

Food Hygiene Regulations :

Absence of hot water supply (water heaters, etc., provided)	2
Food rooms repaired, cleansed or redecorated -	4
Miscellaneous infringements - - - -	16

General :

Defective, etc., walls and ceilings	-	-	-	41
Dirty rooms (walls and ceilings)	-	-	-	3
Defective doors -	-	-	-	4
Defective floors -	-	-	-	3
Defective stoves and fireplaces	-	-	-	4
Defective and smoky chimneys	-	-	-	3
Defective windows -	-	-	-	4
Insanitary urinals -	-	-	-	1
Accumulations -	-	-	-	3
Animals improperly kept -	-	-	-	2
Smoke nuisances -	-	-	-	3
Miscellaneous -	-	-	-	25

C. H. DAVID,

Senior Public Health Inspector.

